(*b*) the total number of stud bulls maintained by the Government in 1113 and 1114 and the places where they are maintained; and

(*c*) the average cost for maintaining a stud bull per annum?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: (*a*) 1,056,943 as per last Census and 1,077,955 as per the latest statistics (taken in 1112) of which figures are available.

(*b*) Nine stud bulls were maintained by the Agricultural Department during 1113 and 1114. Six of them were maintained at Trivandrum, one at Kottayam and two at Koovapady.

(*c*) About Rs. 160.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: With reference to answer to part (*a*), may I know the number of cows as per the statistics of 1112 given in the reply?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar. About 50 per cent.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know how many cows can be served in a year by a stud bull?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: About 50 to 60 cows.

Trivandrum Electric Supply.

57. ***Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether bill collectors have been appointed to collect electrical dues from private consumers in the Trivandrum town;

(*b*) how many such bill collectors have been so appointed;

(*c*) what is their pay;

(*d*) what was the total amount to be collected in 1113 from private consumers;

(*e*) what was the total amount collected in 1113;

(*f*) what was the amount collected by these bill collectors in 1113;

(*g*) are there not similar bill collectors in the Trivandrum Municipality and in the Water Works Department; and

(*h*) what are they paid?

Mr. K. P. P. Menon (*Electrical Engineer to Government*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Two.

(*c*) Rs. 22 in the grade of 20-1-25 with a cycle allowance of Rs. 5 each per mensem.

(*d*) Rs. 1,06,368-24-1.

(*e*) Rs. 1,00,249-17-13.

(*f*) Rs. 11,685-14-7.

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[Mr. K. P. P. Menon.]

(*g*) Municipal taxes are collected by Aminadars in the Municipality. There are no bill collectors in the Water Works Department but the meter readers are engaged in collecting bills in addition to their normal duties of meter reading and preparation of bills.

(*h*) The scale of pay of the Aminadars is Rs. 15-1-20. Five meter readers are in the scale of Rs. 25-40 and 6 in the scale of Rs. 20-25.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know how the remaining amount was collected ?

Mr. K. P. P. Menon : The rest of the amount was paid by the consumers at the cashier's counter.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know from the member whether he is aware that house connection will be disconnected at night ?

Mr. K. P. P. Menon : It is quite possible.

President : I do not catch the member.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: In a particular house in Trivandrum, when I was talking with a friend of mine at about 8 O'clock in the night, suddenly the lights went out, when the children were taking their food. On enquiry I understood that the man had not paid his dues. Even if he had not paid his dues, as a matter of common courtesy, it should not have been disconnected at 8 O'clock when there was no kerosene oil in the House.

Mr. K. P. P. Menon : It is the usual practice to give reasonable notice to the consumers.

President : Will the member look into the matter ?

Mr. K. P. P. Menon : Yes, Sir.

Diseases affecting the cardamom plants.

58. ***Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have made any enquiry about the diseases affecting the cardamom plants in the Devicolam taluk; if so whether they have found out any means of combating this disease ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : Yes. Necessary enquiries have been made and the means of combating the pest have been found out and demonstrated.

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